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SOVIET UNION

1. Comment on Soviet governmental reorganization:

The sweeping governmental changes, centralizing power in the Council of Ministers under Malenkov as Chairman and four first-deputy chairmen, Beria, Molotov, Kaganovich, and Bulganin, appears to be a move aimed at tightening and streamlining the administrative organization. The extensive reorganization and merger of several major ministries can also be viewed in this manner. Organizationally, it restores a system similar to that used during World War II.

The return of various members of the old Politburo as heads of key ministries places them in experienced hands. This is an important move in countering any unrest within the Orbit or possible aggression from the West.

Despite Malenkov's pre-eminent position, the fact that the top members of the old Politburo have been accorded prominence, with four of them renamed as deputy chairmen, suggests at least a temporary agreement among them and presents a united front to the Russian people and to the world. It is believed that these shifts significantly lessen the possibility of any immediate struggle for power or any violent internal upheaval.

While Malenkov headed the list of the party Central Committee Presidium, he was not specifically named the party's Secretary General. It is presumed that as senior secretary he presently has the power which this key position carries.

The extensive scope of the reorganizations, particularly the economic ministries, and the speed with which they were announced appears to reflect a previously well-organized plan for a crisis. Analysis of the reorganization of economic ministries indicates that the only two major fabricating industries not included in this reorganization were the Ministry of Armaments and the Ministry of the Aviation Industry. The eight remaining heavy fabricating ministries have been merged into two.

SOUTH ASIA

2. Comment on arrest of Hindu rightist leaders in India:

By arresting the leaders of three rightist Hindu communal organizations and a number of other individuals in Delhi on 6 March, the Indian Government has taken its first important step in suppressing agitation for the immediate union of Kashmir State with India.

The arrests apparently followed an announcement on the same day that these three organizations had decided to launch a civil disobedience movement in Delhi and in Pathankot, near the Kashmir border, in support of Hindu landowners in Jammu. Since November, this latter group has carried on a campaign of violent opposition to the leftist land reforms and the Moslem leadership of Sheikh Abdullah's government in Indian-held Kashmir. The Nehru government, which to date has only verbally opposed Hindu rightist activities, will not tolerate communal unrest in the national capital.

The arrests may also indicate growing Indian recognition that continued use of violence by Kashmiri Hindus, supported by Indian communal organizations, might create a fear of Hindu domination and turn the Moslem population of Kashmir toward Pakistan, thus jeopardizing India's hold on the state.

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5. French and British closer to EDC understanding:

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An acceptable solution to the problem of British ties with the EDC may be forthcoming if Britain accepts a modified French proposal which would in effect ask Britain simply to reaffirm its present continental commitments under NATO. The French Foreign Ministry has been more successful in negotiations with the

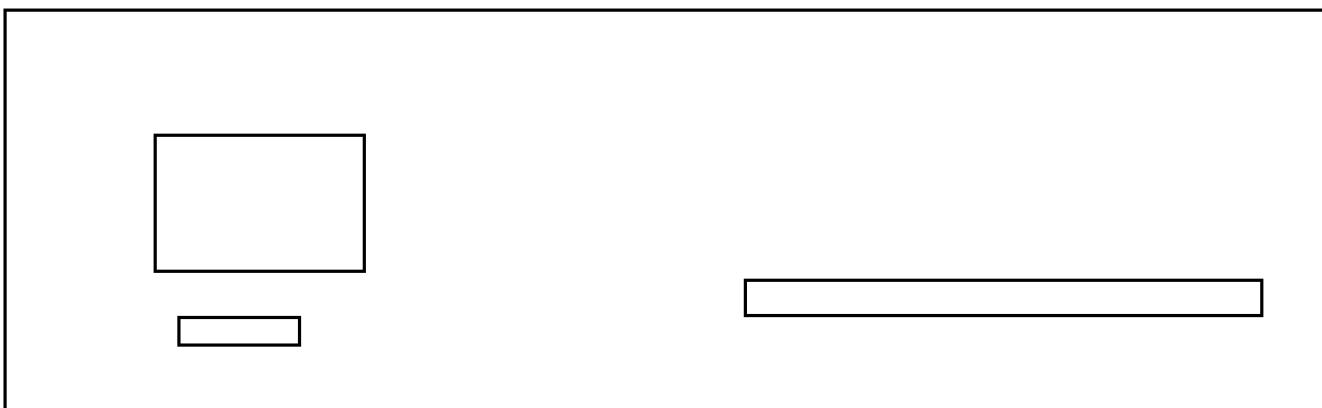
British on this point than it has been willing to admit in order to give a domestic impression that the government has made every effort to force the absolute maximum in association from the British.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, who has informed American officials of the new proposal, states that France will be satisfied with a link between British political participation in the EDC and British maintenance of troops on the Continent.

Comment: The British have already agreed to be represented at the EDC executive level. If the proposal for British "participation" satisfies the French Socialists, Premier Mayer will be able to ignore Gaullist pressure to scrap the treaty.

The Saar deadlock must yet be broken, however, before the government presses for ratification.

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